thereof, or encodes one or more of the proteins or polypeptides, or functional derivatives thereof, depicted in SEQ ID NOS 4 to 9.

26. A DNA fragment according to claim 25, wherein said fragment comprises a nucleotide sequence which is ORF A, or functional derivatives thereof, depicted in SEQ ID NO 4.

27. The method of inactivating or modifying genes of ansamycin biosynthesis, by inserting a DNA fragment comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of ORF A, B, C, D, E and F or functional fragments thereof, or which encodes one or more of the proteins or polypeptides, or functional derivatives thereof, depicted in SEQ ID NOS 4 to 9, into the genome of an organism capable of the biosynthesis of ansamycin.

28. The method according to claim 27 for inactivating or modifying genes of rifamycin biosynthesis, or the biosynthesis of rifamycin analogues, in the genome of an organism capable of the biosynthesis of ansamycin.

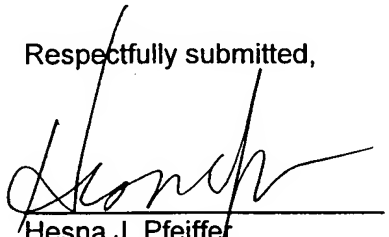
29. The method according to claim 27 for constructing mutated actinomycetes strains from which the natural rifamycin or ansamycin biosynthesis gene cluster in the chromosome has been partly or completely deleted.

30. The method according to claim 27 for assembling a library of polyketide synthases.

REMARKS

The Claims in the case are 15-30. Early and favorable consideration of the claims is respectfully awaited.

Respectfully submitted,



Novartis Corporation
Patent and Trademark Dept.
564 Morris Avenue
Summit, NJ 07901-1027

Hesna J. Pfeiffer
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 22,640
(908) 522-6940

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